

restrictions derive from a law popularly known as “the Hatch Act”.

(b) *Summary of Hatch Act restrictions.*

(1) You may not run for public or party office, except in nonpartisan elections and certain local elections. See § 683.42(a).

(2) You may not participate in election campaigning, except in nonpartisan elections and certain local elections. See § 683.42(c).

(3) You may not take an active part in leading or managing a political party. See § 683.43.

(4) You must not use your official authority or influence for political purposes. See § 683.44.

(c) *Presidential appointees.* You are subject to these restrictions if you are an NSF employee, unless you are a Presidential appointee whose appointment was subject to Senate confirmation. If you are such a Presidential appointee, you are subject only to the restrictions described in § 683.44. You need not be concerned with the rest of this subpart except as it affects your colleagues and subordinates.

(d) *Employee coverage.* If you are subject to the “Hatch Act” restrictions, they apply even while you are on leave while you are on detail or assignment to a non-Federal post. They apply even if you work for the Government only part-time. If you work for the Government as a temporary employee, the restrictions apply as long as your temporary employment lasts. If you work for the Government as an intermittent employee, the restrictions apply only while you are in the active-duty status, but that includes the entire 24 hours of any day on which you work for the Government at all. (If in doubt about the employment category to which you belong, check with Personnel.)

(e) *Political party.* Any political party or political club, national or state, is a “political party” under this subpart, except where provisions specifically refer to a “national political party”.

§ 683.41 Basic political rights unaffected.

The Hatch Act restrictions do not affect your basic political rights. Specifically:

(a) You may register and vote as you choose in any election.

(b) You may contribute to a political party or candidate, though you may not be pressured to do so because of your Federal employment.

(c) You may be a member of a political party or other political organization. You may attend party meetings and vote on issues. You may not, however, be involved in managing or leading the organization. See § 683.43.

(d) You may write, call, or visit any Federal, state, or local political official (including, for example, your Congressman) to express your views on any political issue and on how the official should vote or act on the issue.

(e) You may sign political petitions, including nominating petitions, but you may not circulate such petitions for others to sign. See § 683.42(d)(2).

§ 683.42 Candidacy and campaigns.

(a) *Running for office.* You may not run for nomination or election to public office. There are two exceptions:

(1) You may run in an election in which no candidate runs as representing any national political party. (Currently, this means the Democratic or Republican party, but if another party wins electoral votes in a Presidential election, that could change.)

(2) You may run for office in most of the local political jurisdictions in the Washington, DC area if you run as an independent not representing any political party, national or otherwise. (To be sure that your jurisdiction is among those in which this is permitted, check with an Ethics Counselor in the Office of the General Counsel.)

(b) *No partisan campaigning.* You may not campaign for or against a political party or candidate in an election for public office or in an election for party office. Essentially the same two exceptions apply:

(1) You may campaign for a candidate in an election in which no candidate runs as representing any national political party.

(2) If you could be an independent candidate in a local election described in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, you may campaign for an independent candidate in such an election.

You may not campaign for any side of a question or issue that is specifically identified with a political party.